

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1-14 in accordance with the following:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A distribution system connected to clients through communication circuits, comprising:

~~having a parent server and a plurality of child servers, being arranged to be capable of connection with a plurality of clients through communication circuits, so that contents held by the parent server and/or the child servers are distributed to the clients; wherein the parent server comprises:~~

a parent server and child servers, wherein:

the parent server comprises:

~~an-a receiving unit that receivesreceiving an area identification representing a geographical position information of one of the clients and identification information of the contents, whose distribution of which is requested by the one of the clients; and~~

~~an-a selecting unit that selectsselecting one of the child server whichservers that holds the contents, whose distribution of which is requested, and which child server is closest to the one of the clients client that originates the distribution request, using the received area identification client position information and identification information of the contents, and that notifiesnotifying the one of the clients client that originates the distribution request of the logical position information of the selected one of the child serverservers; and~~

the child server compriseseach child server comprises:

~~an-a distributing unit that distributesdistributing the contents, whose distribution of which is requested in response to a request of by the one of the clients the client originating the distribution request.~~

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The distribution system according to claim 1, wherein:
~~said~~the parent server further comprises anan ascertaining unit that ascertainsascertaining the a presence or an absence of athe distribution request or the a

frequency of distribution requests for saidthe contents from saidthe one of the clients situated in an area for which saidthe one of the child servers is responsible, and

saidthe child server further comprises an acquiring unit that acquiresacquiring and copies copying from saidthe parent server saidthe contents that are not held by saidthe one of the child servers, on the a basis of the ascertained presence or the absence of athe distribution request or the frequency of distribution requests.

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The distribution system according to claim 2, wherein said child server further comprises:

an ascertaining unit that ascertainsascertaining the presence or the absence of athe distribution request or the frequency of distribution requests for saidthe contents from saidthe one of the clients situated in the area for which saidthe one of the child servers is responsible, and

ana deleting unit that deletesdeleting from saidthe one of the child servers said the contents which are held by the one of the said child servers on the basis of the ascertained presence or absence of athe distribution request or the frequency of distribution requests.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The distribution system according to claim 2, wherein said child server further comprises:

ana deleting unit that deletesdeleting from the one of the said child servers said the contents which are held by the one of the said child servers on the basis of the presence or absence of athe distribution request or the frequency of distribution requests ascertained by saidthe parent server.

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A distribution system connected to clients through communication circuits, comprising:

having a parent server and a plurality of child servers, being arranged to be capable of connection with a plurality of clients through communication circuits, so that contents held by the parent server and or the child servers are distributed to the clients; wherein

a parent server and child servers, wherein:

the parent server comprises:

the parent server comprises ana ascertaining unit that ascertainsascertaining thea

presence or an absence of a distribution request or the-a frequency of distribution requests for saidthe contents from saidthe one of the clients situated in an area for which saidthe one of the child servers is responsible; and

the child server comprises each child server comprises:

an acquiring unit that acquiresacquiring and copiescopying from saidthe parent server saidthe contents that are not held by saidthe one of the child serversservers on the-a basis of the ascertained presence or the absence of athe distribution request or the frequency of distribution requests.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The distribution system according to claim 5, wherein saidthe child server further comprises:

an ascertaining unit that ascertainsascertaining the presence or the absence of athe distribution request or the frequency of distribution requests for saidthe contents from saidthe one of the clients situated in the area for which saidthe one of the child servers is responsible; and

an-a deleting unit that deletesdeleting from saidthe one of the child serversservers saidthe contents which are held by the one of the saidchild server servers on the basis of the ascertained presence or absence of athe distribution request or the frequency of distribution requests.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The distribution system according to claim 5, wherein saidthe child server further comprises:

an-a deleting unit that deletesdeleting from the one of the saidchild server servers saidthe contents which are held by the one of the saidchild server servers on the basis of the presence or the absence of athe distribution request or the frequency of distribution requests ascertained by saidthe parent server.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer program product that operates on a parent server in a distribution system having the parent server and a plurality of child servers, being arranged to be capable of connectionand connected with a plurality of clients through communication circuits, so that contents held by the parent server and/or the child servers are distributed to the clients, saidthe computer program product comprising:

a step of selectingoneof the child server servers that holds the contents, whose

distribution of which is requested and that is closest to the one of the clients client that made the distribution request on the-a basis of an area identification representing a geographical position information of the one of the client clients that makes a-the distribution request for the contents and identification information of the contents, whose the distribution of which is requested by the one of the clients client; and

a step of communicating the position information of the selected one of the child servers to the client one of the clients that makes the distribution request.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer program product that operates on a parent server in a distribution system having the parent server and a plurality of child servers, ~~being arranged to be capable of connection and connected~~ with a plurality of clients through communication circuits, so that the contents held by the parent server and/or the child servers are distributed to the clients, said the computer program product comprising:

a step of ascertaining the-a presence or an absence of a distribution request or the-a frequency of distribution requests in respect of the contents from the clients situated within an area for which one of the child servers is responsible; and

a step of giving the one of the child servers notification to prompt copying to the child server from the parent server of the contents that are not held by the child server, or deleting from the one of the child servers the contents that are held by the one of the child servers, on the-a basis of the ascertained presence or absence of a-the distribution request or the frequency of distribution requests.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer program product that operates on a child server in a distribution system having a parent server and a plurality of child servers, ~~being arranged to be capable of connection and connected~~ with a plurality of clients through communication circuits, so that the contents held by the parent server and/or the child servers are distributed to the clients, said the computer program product comprising:

a program code which copies copying to one of the child servers from the parent server the contents that are not held by the one of the child servers, or deletes deleting from the child server the contents that are held by the one of the child servers, on the-a basis of a presence or an absence of a distribution request or a frequency of distribution requests for the contents from the clients situated in an area for which one of the child servers is responsible.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of distributing contents to clients in a distribution system including a parent server and a plurality of child servers, ~~being arranged to be capable of connection and connected~~ with the plurality of clients through communication circuits, comprising:

~~a step in which the parent server receives receiving identification information by the parent server of the contents whose of which distribution is requested and an area identification representing a geographical position information of one of the client clients that makes a-the request for the distribution of the contents;~~

~~a step in which the parent server selects selecting by the parent server, on the-a basis of the received area identification position information of the one of the client clients and contents identification information, the one of the child server servers which has the contents that is requested for distribution and which that is closest to the one of the clients client that makes the request for distribution, and notifies notifying the one of the clients the client that makes the request for distribution of the received position information of the selected one of the child servers servers; and~~

~~a step in which the selected child server distributes distributing the contents, whose distribution of which is requested by the selected one of the child servers, in response to a-the request of the one of the clients client that makes the distribution request.~~

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of distributing contents to clients in a distribution system including a parent server and a plurality of child servers, ~~being arranged to be capable of connection and connected~~ with the plurality of clients through communication circuits, comprising:

~~a step of ascertaining the-a presence or an absence of a distribution request or the-a frequency of distribution requests in respect of the contents from the clients situated in an area for which one of the child server servers is responsible;~~

~~a step of copying the contents which are not held on the one of the child server servers from the parent server to the one of the child server servers, or deleting the contents which are held on the child server from the one of the child server servers on the-a basis of the ascertained presence or absence of a-the distribution request or the frequency of distribution requests; and~~

~~a step of performing the distribution from the one of the child server servers the child server in response to a-the distribution request for the contents held by the one of the child~~

server servers the child server from the clients situated in the area for which the one of the child server servers the child server is responsible.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A distribution system ~~comprising a parent server, a plurality of child servers and connected to~~ a plurality of clients which are connected through communication circuits so that contents held by the parent server and/or the child servers are distributed to the clients, wherein comprising:

a parent server and child servers, wherein:

the clients communicate to the parent server an area identification representing a geographical position information of one of the clients and identification information of the contents, whose distribution of which is requested by the one of the clients,

the parent server selects, on the a bases-basis of the area identification position information of the one of the client clients and the contents identification information that is communicated thereto, the child server one of the child servers that holds the contents, whose distribution of which is requested and that is closest to the client one of the clients that originates the distribution request, and communicates the position information of the selected child server one of the child servers to the client one of the clients originating the distribution request; and

the client one of the clients that originates the distribution request receives the contents, whose distribution of which is requested from the selected child one of the child servers server, on the basis of the position information of the selected one of the child servers child server.

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The distribution system according to claim 13, wherein receipt performed by said the one of the clients client of the contents from said the selected one of the child servers child server is conducted using a program downloaded to the one of the clients said client from said the parent server when the request for the distribution of said the contents is made.